



## **Lt. Governor Announces Recipients of New IDOC Brownfields Pilot Program**

While many communities have used available state resources for environmental assessments and possibly remediation, they may not have the funds to undertake other activities necessary to finish preparing a site for redevelopment. In 2001, the Indiana Department of Commerce (IDOC) developed a pilot program to help facilitate the reuse of brownfield properties. The goal of the pilot is to provide grant funds to assist communities with further site preparation activities, bridging the current financial gaps in their redevelopment efforts. Seven communities applied for pilot grants in October 2001, and three were chosen as [pilot communities](#) in early December 2001.

Funding for the pilot is provided through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, which the state of Indiana receives annually. Thirty-two brownfield projects were identified statewide and invited to submit an application for the pilot. To be eligible, the project must have received a Brownfields Site Assessment Grant through the Indiana Development Finance Authority (IDFA) and IDEM, be a non-entitlement community for CDBG funds, be substantially finished with the environmental investigation, and be facing additional remediation or site preparation tasks. Project status and eligibility were determined through a survey sent to communities that had previously received a Brownfields Site Assessment Grant through IDFA and IDEM.

The activities eligible for the funding include environmental remediation, demolition, building rehabilitation, public infrastructure, and reuse planning. A minimum match of 10% of the total project cost is required from the participating community. Professional design and/or planning costs are eligible as local match only if an IDFA grant or other state grant does not cover these costs. For environmental remediation activities, brownfield pilot CDBG funds can be used only in conjunction with a loan from the Environmental Remediation Revolving Loan Fund through IDFA, where the loan comprises at least 50% of the environmental remediation cost. This type of a loan will count toward the required local match.

IDOC hopes to make this program another tool for communities to aid in the redevelopment of brownfield sites. Interested communities can obtain more information by contacting Mary Beth Schmucker, the administrator of the pilot program, at 317-232-8915 or by e-mail at [mschmucker@commerce.state.in.us](mailto:mschmucker@commerce.state.in.us).